

Miller Says He Is Not Candidate For Re-election

Those Seeking Nomination Will Have Free Field so Far as He Is Concerned, the Governor Declares

Big Budget Cut Planned

Expresses Hope That Further Reduction of Ten Millions May Be Made

Governor Nathan L. Miller, at the Hotel Plaza, yesterday confirmed the report that he is not a candidate for re-nomination next year.

When asked whether he had decided to withdraw his name from consideration for re-nomination by the organization leaders, he said that was a matter he was not concerned about at this time, as it was premature.

"It is a bridge I have not reached yet," said the Governor, with a smile. When it was suggested that receptive candidates for Governor had doubtless read with interest the story about his not being a candidate next year, the Governor said:

"It does not do any harm to bring up the candidates and have them groomed a little, so as to look them over. They will all have a free field as far as I am concerned, I assure you."

\$10,000,000 Budget Cut Seen

Governor Miller also said that he hoped the next state budget would show a reduction of \$10,000,000, as compared with last year. It then was about \$135,000,000.

"I am quite certain that we shall be able to make some reductions," said the Governor. "I am not yet prepared to put a peg in a particular spot and say that we shall not exceed that, but I hope that we shall effect a further reduction of \$10,000,000. The budget requests, as they come in, have indicated a very commendable appreciation on the part of most all public officials of efficient and economical administration. The budget requests last year were about \$200,000,000, you know. I do not think they will exceed \$145,000,000 this year—the initial requests without revision. I think it will be somewhere around that, and, of course, you know that with the very best we can do they are bound to ask for all they need. I think it will be easier to take \$20,000,000 out of \$145,000,000 than it was \$70,000,000 out of \$201,000,000. As a matter of fact, the things that weren't included in the requests last year brought the total amount up to \$210,000,000."

State Departments More Efficient

"And from your observation has there been any appreciable improvement of service rendered by the various subdivisions of the state government?" "I think there has been an improvement," replied the Governor. "Of course, when you make reorganizations, it takes time to get new machinery working harmoniously, and of course the big reorganization was the Tax Department. They had very considerable readjustments to make, and it takes time to get things fitted in, but I think that the actual record of work accomplished, will show that in the reorganized departments the work is more efficiently done than it was before."

Asked about the prospect of abolishing the state income tax, the Governor said:

"I don't see how we can do that."

What I am trying to do is to get the expenditures of the state within its revenues. We had started in at a rate of expenditure of \$25,000,000 a year in excess of the revenues, with decreasing revenues. Even securities are not appraised as highly as they were two years ago. The corporation tax, the inheritance tax and the income tax are the three big sources of revenue, and they are very seriously affected by business conditions, and there is bound to be a falling off in revenues, and we have got to get where we are living within our means before we can think of reducing revenues."

Plans Central Purchasing Body

Asked about new measures for the conduct of the business of the state in order to save money, the Governor said:

"I am considering and having considered by experts the subject of improving the purchasing methods of the state. I have not yet reached any conclusion as to any recommendation I may make on the subject, and I am still waiting for the reports of the gentlemen who are studying the subject. If we should set up a central purchasing organization, while it would be the creation of a new organization, it would be created largely by transferring machinery which now exists in different departments. For example, the purchasing by the group of charitable institutions, so-called, is now done in part through a central committee and in part by the stewards."

Seek Business Men's Advice

"Now, I am not yet ready to say definitely even whether any change will be attempted, but the subject has been under investigation and I have recently called in from various companies that have large purchases to make that could be somewhat comparable to the state business and have asked them to come and get their views and the views of the various department heads that deal with the subject, I shall be prepared to make a recommendation. I cannot say yet."

Asked about the report that Governor Allen of Kansas desired to debate with him about the desirability of a St. Lawrence River ship canal, Governor Miller said that he knew nothing about any arrangements, but that he stood ready at any time to debate the subject.

The Governor leaves for Charleston, S. C., to-day to attend a conference of Governors. He probably will return Tuesday.

Dogs Entertain Passengers On Liner Anchored in Bay

Dancing Also Prevails, but Some on Board Are Peevish at Delay

The steamship George Washington, of the United States Lines, which came to port from Bremen shortly before sunset Friday and stayed at anchor for the night, came up to her pier in Hoboken yesterday discharging 1,214 passengers.

Some of those on board expressed dissatisfaction because they had to remain down the bay overnight, but the majority of the travelers had a better and a wetter time on the Washington than they could have had in Broadway. There was plenty of music and merriment on the vessel and dancing lasted well into the wee small hours.

Forty German and Belgian police dogs brought over by passengers were called from the charge of the butcher and exhibited for small cash prizes. The winning owners turning over the cash to the fund for widows and orphans of seamen.

Among the saloon passengers were James P. Goodrich, a former Governor of Indiana; Miss Regina Haller, a singer of Cleveland; Dr. A. L. Reel, Frank Holden H. N. Stetson, J. P. Salmon, Miss Selma Belyea and Miss Marie E. Manice.

Hylan and Craig Fight Charter Revision Plans

(Continued from page one)

came with his Corporation Counsel, John P. O'Brien, as his personal adviser, declined to qualify, fearing he might lose his job as Mayor. In this attitude he was followed by Borough President Edward Reigelmann of Brooklyn. Comptroller Craig explained that he had taken the oath of office before he realized that he might be jeopardizing his tenure of office, but added that he would not shed any tears if he did lose his office.

Chairman Scott, replying to Craig's condemnation of the work of the commission before it started, said that he hoped that the Comptroller would stop calling everybody crooks, and added:

"The reputation of this commission, about which the Comptroller is so very doubtful, will be made as the reputation of every man is made, by what he does, and not by what somebody says about him before he begins to do it. Therefore, whatever reputation we have in the community, will not depend upon what somebody else says, but upon what the outcome of our work is. It may not be perfect, but if the community believes that we have made an honest attempt, without ulterior purposes, to produce the best our efforts can produce, I am quite sure we need have no apprehension as to public disapprobation."

Craig also sought to prevent the commission from selecting a chairman and other officers, and, after failing, nominated Mayor Hylan for the head of the commission, but the commission also named Edward J. McGoldrick, a Democrat and former justice of the Supreme Court, as counsel, and Professor Howard Lee McBain, secretary. Mr. Craig nominated Alderman John Keller in opposition to Pro-

fessor McBain, but the alderman immediately declined. Governor Miller in calling the commission together said:

Governor Promises Extra Session

"I invited you to come together for the purpose of enabling you to qualify and to organize. I have nothing to say to you. If I had any views with respect to charter revision I should not undertake to press them upon you, because gentlemen must do yourselves after very thoroughly considering the problem. I am sure I do not need to impress upon you the importance of the work."

"I believe that you have an opportunity to do a very important piece of constructive work and I hope that it will not go to naught. What I mean is that I hope you will be able to work out a better scheme for the government of this city, which it will be possible to adopt. I want you to take all the time that is necessary in order to do the work thoroughly. I have said, and I repeat the suggestion, I have no idea that you can possibly do your work in time to report at this hour. I think the charter subject is of sufficient importance and of a nature which it probably will be well to have considered by itself. And if you gentlemen are able to complete your work, as I hope you will be, so that the present Legislature, or the one which comes into office on January 1, can take it up, I will be entirely willing to convene the Legislature in extraordinary session to act upon your work when you have finished it."

Most of the hour and a half that the commission was in session was taken up by Comptroller Craig in attacking the commission. In moving for a postponement of the organization of the commission until after the Mayor had made up his mind if he would lose his office by qualifying as a member of the commission, Comptroller Craig said:

"I cannot be forgotten that the measure under which we are just beginning to organize was introduced by Senator Meyer as a companion of the so-called Meyer resolution for the investigation of the various activities of the municipal government of the City of New York, and in the city here have had experience in the way that particular department was conducted. I do not need to go into any details

in regard to it, but I think I fairly state the public view when I say that the commission has not impressed the people of this city that they are concerned so much for the welfare of the city of New York as it has been to serve some ulterior end."

"Now, it could be a very unfortunate impression to go abroad that this charter revision commission which has its origin in the same bit of legislation or its companion bit of legislation, should ever acquire that character by the people of the City of New York. Undoubtedly the questions that will have to be determined by the commission will present the greatest difficulties, possibly the greatest division of opinion thereto in regard to the right of the City of New York to control and operate its own public utilities."

Charges Commission Is Packed

"This subject has been the subject of very general discussion almost, I may say, ever since Governor Miller took office, and he has caused more discussion, I think, than any other man in the state, and I think it is time that we have the entire confidence of the community which can be obtained for the commission if we have as a chairman some one who has evidenced that he has the confidence of the community upon those and other municipal questions."

"I think an unfortunate impression has been created to the end that the Governor may intend to unilaterally influence the action of the commission. The morning papers carry the statement that former Justice Scott is to be chairman."

"I think that is very unfortunate when the act itself expressly provides that the chairman of the commission is to be selected by its own membership, and it seems to me that the Governor should be the last one to be a party to the creation of the impression that the commission has in any manner been packed, if I may use a terse expression, so that the appointment of a chairman of the commission isn't one for the members, but rather with the Governor."

"Now, I think that would be a very unfortunate condition because of its effect upon public opinion in this city and the confidence of our people. I think if that line of action is pursued we are very likely to have this result: That there will be a majority and a minority report on any charter that

may come out of this commission or the minority will be driven to prepare a form of charter which, in their view, will meet the needs of the City of New York."

Albany Control Charged

"The parliamentary situation then would be this—that the report of the majority would have the unquestionable support of the Governor. The Legislature as now constituted is not a New York City, that is, it is not a Legislature from which members of New York City have a majority or in which the majority part of New York City has any great representation, and this measure was passed by the Legislature from New York City representing the majority of our people."

"Now, in the light of these conditions, which I do not desire further to amplify, the situation presented at the close of this commission's activities, if it is to be run from Albany rather than to express the views of people of New York City, will be the presentation of a majority report agreeing with the views of the Governor and probably of the majority in the Legislature, the kind of a majority that was identified with the passage of the act creating the Transit Commission, and there will be presented through the commission or otherwise a charter according to the conception of the minority members."

"It may very well be that the Legislature will have the power to adopt the majority measure, but it must come to the Mayor of the City of New York for his approval, and it is going to die there or the Legislature and the Governor are going to be in the position of forcing upon the people of the City of New York a charter which is not in accordance with their desires. That is the very thing we want to avoid, and we can make our work effective here if we start out with some decent regard for the people of New York City."

Imputation Is Resented

"The fact is that it would require a two-thirds vote in both branches of the Legislature to override the Mayor's veto, and that more than one-third of the Assembly is composed of members of the Mayor's own party."

Mayor Hylan seconded the dilatory motions of Craig, and when it came to voting on them, former Comptroller Metz declared that there was no basis

for the charge that the charter would in any sense be an Albany charter. "I think in creating the impression that there may be such a thing," said Metz, "we are damaged already, and I for one resent any such imputation."

Alderman Keller, in voting, said that he took the same position as Mr. Metz. "I resent the remarks of the Comptroller at the outset of this commission," he added. "I do not believe he had any right to make the remarks he did. I do not know why he made them, unless it was for the purpose of discrediting the commission from the start."

After the election of Justice Scott as chairman the presiding officer thanked the commission for its expression of confidence in him, excepting—he qualified—Comptroller Craig. Then, looking at the latter, he said:

Attempt to Discredit Commission

"I very much regret that the Comptroller has found it desirable this morning to interject the objection that he has made. I regret very much that he puts himself, at the outset, in a position of antagonism to the other members of the commission; that he has announced in advance, without having the slightest conception of what the commission will produce in the way of a report, that there will be a minority report which the action of the majority will be opposed to. It is an unfortunate and unhappy and, I think, an ominous commencement of our labors to have one of our members, and one from whom under ordinary circumstances we should be entitled to receive a great deal of information and assistance, here announce himself at once as in antagonism to the commission and whatever the members may undertake to do. Of course, if we are not to have the co-operation of the Comptroller we shall have to get along the best we can without it."

"But I want to say here that the only purpose I have in mind—I am too old to have ambitions and my blood does not boil as it once did with partisan considerations, and I am quite willing to look at everything from a purely impersonal standpoint and entirely in the light of what is best for the City of New York."

Comptroller Craig then opposed a motion to name a committee of three to map out the commission's program. This was also objected to by Mayor Hylan, the latter saying:

"We have had a disgraceful exhibi-

tion by the Meyer committee organization into committees and holding secret sessions, and hauling people behind closed doors, and star-chamber proceedings, catechising them and even threatening them, and I think it is unfair, and I do not think it is proper to have this committee organized into committees for any purpose, I think it ought to be done—whatever is done—if I finally become a member of the commission—ought to be done in the open."

"That is what my motion contemplates," said Mr. DeLafield who offered the motion.

The Mayor said no more. The motion was carried.

When it came to the appointment of ex-Judge McGoldrick as counsel—he is a Democrat—the Comptroller again objected in language which caused Justice Scott to interrupt and exclaim heatedly:

"Now, don't start again. I don't care to make speeches for the press, but do not start in at every meeting and accuse every member of being a crook. Now, what we have said is that we have talked to him about it and he has agreed, and now you get up and say that we are passing it up, which is really accusing me of being a crook." There were no more blasts from Comptroller Craig and the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, when it will meet in the Municipal Building.

Troops to Leave Mingo Mine

Field Within Next Three Days

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 3.—Colonel C. A. Martin, in command of the Federal troops in Kanawha, Logan and Mingo counties, West Virginia, announced to-day that the soldiers would entrain for their home station, Camp Knox, Kentucky, within the next three days. The official order for withdrawal of the troops, issued at Washington last Monday, was received by Colonel Martin to-day.

Forty-five cars will be required to move the 350 soldiers and their equipment to Camp Knox, the Colonel said. The men are a part of the 10th Infantry.

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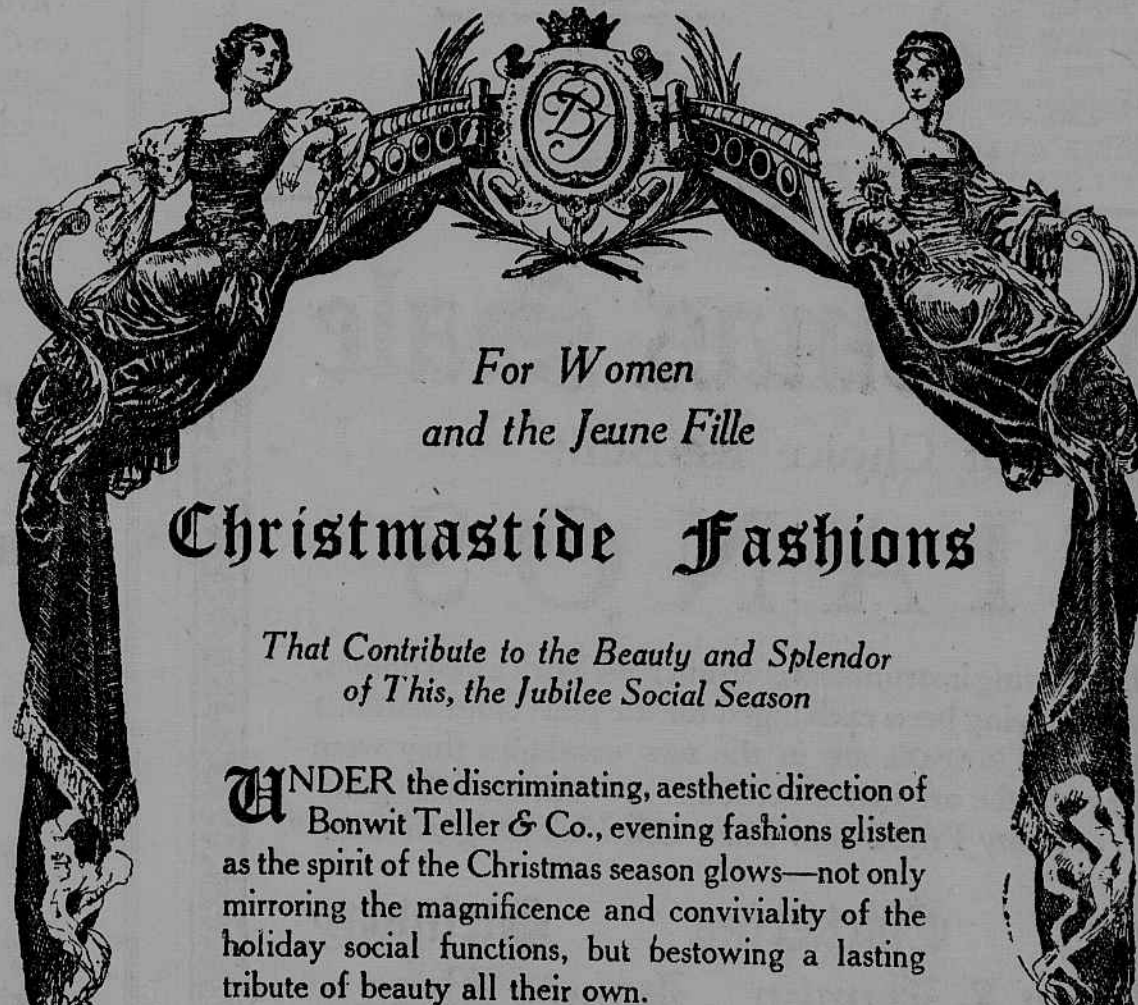
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